

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

IN FAVOR of L.D. 229**

LD TITLE: An Act to Simplify and Encourage the Sale of Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Permits

SPONSORED BY: Representative SHAW of Standish

**CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator BURNS of Washington,
Representative DAVIS of Sangerville, Senator DUTREMBLE
of York, Representative GILBERT of Jay, Representative HARVELL
of Farmington, Representative McCABE of Skowhegan,
Senator PLUMMER of Cumberland, Representative SANDERSON of
Chelsea, Representative SAUCIER of Presque Isle**

DATE OF HEARING: February 28, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of the Licensing Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in favor of L.D. 229.

L.D. 229 would extend lifetime hunting, fishing, archery, and trapping licenses for all individuals regardless of age. In general, the department supports this initiative but requests that the fees be set such that the annual revenues of the department are not negatively impacted. The department requests that the Committee authorize the funds for an economic study to be conducted by an independent qualified entity to determine the proper fees to charge for these new licenses. In addition, the department requests that this study would also include an analysis of the currently established lifetime license fees to make sure that the current fees are also set appropriately.

L.D. 229 also would allow the transfer of antlerless deer permits to any hunters, regardless of age. Currently, the transfer of antlerless deer permits is limited to junior hunters or persons 65 years of age or older. There are several items that the department would request the Committee to consider in regard to this item. First, this initiative may result in fewer permits being transferred to junior or senior hunters. Second, current law

requires that no more than 15% of antlerless deer permits in any WMD be awarded to non-residents. Unrestricted transfer of permits between residents and non-residents will make it impossible to maintain this ratio. Third, this new initiative may result in the selling of antlerless deer permits which may be viewed negatively by some of our customers. Lastly, the department would request that the Committee limit the number of transfers of an individual permit to one, to minimize the administrative burden.

L.D. 229 would require the department to convene a task force composed of persons representing individuals and organizations that purchase licenses, permits and registrations issued by the department for the purpose of creating a plan to reduce the number of types of licenses, permits and registrations administered by the department. The department is in support of this initiative but requests that the Committee include at least one person representing the department on this task force.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time.